

## Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 OPIC-12 XMB-07

FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20

STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 DRC-01 SWF-02 SPM-01 NEA-14

/210 W

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P 261649Z SEPT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6040

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 9558

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN PRIVATE SECTOR REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S  
ENERGY STATEMENTS

REF: (A) CARACAS 9318; (B) CARACAS 9364

1. THE VENEZUELAN PRIVATE SECTOR REACTED STRONGLY AND UNANIMOUSLY TO PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE TO THE WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE. THE SPEECH WAS CRITICIZED MORE SHARPLY THAN FORD'S INITIAL REMARKS ON THE ENERGY CRISIS IN HIS SPEECH TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

2. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE OF FEDECAMARAS MET ON SEPT 24 TO CONSIDER AN OFFICIAL REACTION TO FORD'S SPEECH. AS ANTICIPATED, THE OFFICIAL REACTION OF FEDECAMARAS STRONGLY BACKED THE REMARKS OF

FEDECAMARAS PRESIDENT ALFREDO PAUL ENDORSING PRESIDENT PEREZ'S REPLY (REFTEL B). FEDECAMARAS WENT BEYOND ITS EXPECTED OFFICIAL STATEMENT, HOWEVER, IN ANNOUNCING THAT IT WOULD HOLD A PUBLIC SESSION SEPTEMBER 30 TO EXPRESS THE SENTIMENTS OF THE NATION'S

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PRIVATE BUSINESS SECTOR FOR (A) SUPPORTING RAW MATERIALS PRICES;  
(2) REJECTING FOREIGN PRESSURE OR INTERFERENCE IN VENEZUELA'S  
SOVEREIGN POWERS OF DECISION AND (3) FOR SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL  
SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE WAYS TO RESOLVE  
COMMON WORLD PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVING ENERGY, FOOD  
SCARCITY, INFLATION, AND MONETARY DISTURBANCES.

3. THE UNUSUALLY STRONG FEDECAMARAS REACTION WAS PERHAPS  
STIMULATED IN PART BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT PRO-VENEZUELA, A  
COMPETING HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC BUSINESS ORGANIZATION, MIGHT  
UPSTAGE IT IN EXPRESSING THE VIEWS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.  
PRO-VENEZUELA ISSUED A STATEMENT CALLING FORD'S REMARKS A  
"PSYCHOLOGICAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST OPEC." THE ORGANIZATION LABELED  
FORD'S DETROIT SPEECH AN UNACCEPTABLE THREAT AGAINST VENEZUELA'S  
NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND A SUBTEL REVIVAL OF THE "BIG STICK"  
POLICY. THE ORGANIZATION CALLED FOR UNITY BY ALL SECTORS  
OF VENEZUELAN SOCIETY IN THE NATION'S DEFENSE. PRO-VENEZUELA  
ASSERTED THAT IT IS MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT NATIONALIZATION  
OF VENEZUELA'S BASIC RAW MATERIALS PRODUCTION SHOULD BE  
ACCELERATED  
IN ORDER TO COMBAT WHAT THEY REGARD AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL AND  
INTERVENTIONIST ASSAULT BY PRESIDENT FORD.

4. COMMENT: REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S REMAKRS GENERATED AN  
UNUSUAL COINCIDENCE OF OPINION AMONG CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS OF  
VENEZUELA'S BUSINESS SECTOR WHICH FEDECAMARAS REPRESENTS,  
AND HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC BUSINESS INTERESTS REPRESENTED BY PRO-  
VENEZUELA. DESPITE THE APPEARANCE OF UNAMINITY, HOWEVER, THE  
MORE MODERATE SECTORS OF VENEZUELA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAVE  
CONSISTENTLY EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
TO RESOLVE THE ENTIRE BROAD RANGE OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING  
THE WORLD RATHER THAN THE PRECIPITATE NATIONALIST MEASURES  
ADVOCATED BY PRO-VENEZUELA. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT FEDECAMARAS'  
PUBLIC SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 30 WILL EMPHASIZE THIS APPROACH.  
END COMMENT.  
FISHER

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, US, VE, FEDECAMARAS, (FORD, GERALD R), (PEREZ)  
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**Type:** TE  
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